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The Sacramento Star

#32849
Lavender Library, Archives and Cultural Exchange
Sacramento, CA

Deadline is February 1, 1984 for issue of February 8, 1984.

Free

Volume 2, Number 18 | *Published Alternate Wednesdays for the Women and Men of the Gay and Lesbian Community* | January 25, 1984

River City Demo Club Launches Investigation Into Possible Homophobia In Trial Of Teacher

Did the district attorney's office or Superior Court Judge Peter J. Mering display homophobia in the recent trial of a sexual molestation case?

The River City Democratic Club has appointed a special committee to investigate the trial's transcripts and the media's coverage of it.

The investigation centers on the trial of Robert Donald Stevens, 51, and his sentencing on Jan. 19 to nine months in county jail for engaging in sex acts with two teenage boys.

Jerry Sloan brought the trial to the Democratic club's attention after reading stories in the Sacramento Union and The Sacramento Bee.

After reading The Bee's report, Sloan called reporter Art Campos to clarify several concerns he had. He then called Deputy District Attorney Jan Hansen to clarify a statement in The Bee's article.

The article said, "[Hansen] contended Stevens still violated his position of trust as a teacher because he did not urge the boys to seek counseling."

Hansen told Sloan that she was concerned that by having sex with the teenagers, Stevens was perpetuating "the homosexual pattern."

Sloan also took exception to a portion of Stevens' sentence that required him to refrain from contact with persons under 18 with a responsible adult present, who cannot be a known homosexual without the permission of Stevens' probation officer.

Stevens, a former intermediate school teacher, came to the attention of the district attorney after a former student was in an auto accident on May 14, 1983. Investigators arrested him in July after they determined that he had provided vodka to the 16-year-old youth before the accident.

The youth seriously injured two people in the accident. His blood alcohol at the time was 0.19 percent. California law presumes a person to be legally drunk at 0.10 percent.

During the investigation, law enforcement officers learned that Stevens had engaged in sexual activity with the youth and with another boy.

The youth involved in the accident had lived with Stevens for two years prior to Stevens' arrest. The youth's mother had approved of the living arrangements.

Under a plea-bargain agreement with the district attorney's office, Stevens had pleaded no contest to the sex charges in exchange for a promise that he would not be required to serve a state prison sentence.

In December 1983, Stevens also pleaded no contest to a charge of contributing to the delinquency of a minor for giving the vodka to the youth. On that charge, he was sentenced to one year in jail by Sacramento Municipal Court Judge Earl Warren Jr.

Stevens is to serve the nine-month sentence for sexual molestation consecutively to the previously-imposed sentence of one year for contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

During the sentencing on Jan. 18, the attorney for Stevens, Steven Burlingham, asked Mering not to impose any more jail time on his client because "He's lost his job, his home, his teaching credential. His future is destroyed."

Stevens was a 22-year employee of the San Juan Unified School District and a former teacher at Will Rogers Intermediate School. He was suspended without pay in September and resigned shortly thereafter.

Burlingham also noted that the two boys listed in the complaint were already sexually active with other males before their involvement with Stevens.

"There was no harm to the victims because it did not alter the lives or lifestyles they've already chosen to live," the attorney said.

The committee established by the River City Democratic Club will review all the materials it finds relevant to the case and report back to the membership with recommendations. Among the possible recommendations are meetings with District Attorney John Dougherty.

Jerry Sloan will chair the committee and Gary Miller, who has just been appointed to Dougherty's Citizens Advisory Committee, will be one of the committee members.★

Britt Will Speak

San Francisco Supervisor Harry Britt, well-known as successor to Harvey Milk as the holder of the "gay seat" on The City's Board of Supervisors, will be the guest speaker at a fund-raiser for La Semilla Cultural Center, Friday, Feb. 3, from 5:30 till 7:30 p.m., at La Semilla, 312 20th Street. A donation of $5 is requested.

Named To DA's Advisory Panel

Political activist Gary Miller has recently been appointed to the Citizens Advisory Committee of Sacramento District Attorney John Dougherty.

The committee, whose members are appointed by Dougherty, will advise the District Attorney on the operations of his office..

Dougherty is responsible for more than 300 employees, a third of whom are attorneys, and a budget in excess of $14 million. The District Attorney's major function is to prosecute suspected criminal violators in Sacramento.

Gary Miller, the only committee member active in the gay community, joins 21 other persons on the advisory committee. Other members include representatives from the Asian Law Association, the various Chambers of Commerce, the League of Women Voters, the NAACP, WEAVE, the Lions Club, and the Department of Justice.

Miller, who also chairs the Democratic Party in Sacramento County, encourages persons having concerns about the District Attorney's office to call him at 739-8699.★

Gary Miller

Fair Planned For 1984 Lesbian And Gay Freedom Week, Participation Sought Now

An "old fashioned community fair" will highlight the 1984 Sacramento Lesbian and Gay Freedom Week activities, June 9-17, the local Freedom Week Committee announced this week.

The fair will feature booths, entertainers, speakers and athletic events on Saturday, June 16, in McKinley Park, at the corner of McKinley and Alhambra Boulevards.

The theme for this year's celebration will be "Unity and More in '84." This is the theme chosen by the national coalition of Freedom Week Committees.

Sacramento's Freedom Week Committee is now accepting booth applications from individuals, organizations, and businesses. Food, crafts, or other items may be sold in booths, which may also provide information or feature carnival games. Carnival game booths will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Non-profit organizations providing information services only will be charged $15 for booth space, non-profit groups selling items or running games will be charged $25, and commercial booths will rent for $25 plus 5 percent of the day's gross sales. Booths will be approximately 10 feet square.

In addition to booths and entertainment, the Freedom Week Committee will sponsor tennis, horseshoes, and softball. These athletic activities will be coordinated by SAGA II.

The Freedom Week Committee is also seeking sponsors to help underwrite the week's expenses.

For a $25 donation, a sponsor's name will appear in the fair program. Sponsors donating $50 will receive business-card-sized ads in the program and $100 sponsors will receive 5-inch by 4-inch ads in the program.

All donations are tax-deductible.

Sacramento's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Week Committee will hold open planning meetings on Thursdays, Feb. 2 and 16, at 7 p.m. in the First Sacramento Women's Building, 2224 J Street.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help with planning the fair or helping in any way with the 1984 Freedom Week should contact Jerry Sloan, 381-3115.★

OPINION

Our Homophobic Blood Bank

By SANDY POMERANTZ, M.D.

Recently, the wimmin of this community rolled up their shirtsleeves to donate blood, many under the mistaken guise of showing solidarity with their gay male brethren who are at risk for, or have, AIDS or an AIDS-related disorder.

I say "mistaken" because in spite of the many noteworthy sponsoring organizations, the Sacramento Blood Bank will not support "directed donations"; that is, blood specifically earmarked for people with AIDS or, for that matter, for any gay men. Hence, blood, this life-supporting substance for those who need it, will go into the common pool and only in this derivative way will it be available for people with AIDS.

Now, let's stop and think of the political implications of cooperating with our blatantly homophobic blood bank. I say "homophobic" without hesitation; for confirmation, let us look at three of our local blood bank policies.

One. All gay men, no matter if celibate or in monandrous relationships for greater than the known incubation period for the AIDS agent, are excluded from donating blood. Yet, our blood bank refuses to specifically exclude the female sexual partners of other high risk groups.

Nevertheless, we know that sexual partners of people with hemophilia can get and transmit AIDS. Just a few weeks ago, a 70-year-old woman was recorded with AIDS. Her husband, a 50-year-old man with hemophilia, developed the syndrome, too—after she became ill!

Why not specifically exclude men and women who are prostitutes, who because of their *lifestyle* (multiple different sexual partners) are consequently at increased risk for AIDS and its transmission into the general public via transfusion? And what about their sexual partners? Or are the questions hitting too close to home?

Two. The blood bank has refused to answer a request, now over a year old, to make plasmapheresis, a blood cleansing procedure, available for people with a form of AIDS that prevents their blood from clotting (because of an irregularity of platelets, blood cells that function to help stop bleeding). Plasmapheresis is a known helpful procedure, medically indicated and often life-saving in this disorder.

Three. Finally, while publicly soliciting money and saying it would help fund AIDS research, the Sacramento Blood Bank recently refused to help finance a UC Davis/AIDS Clinic effort to perform a study that would trace and medically follow the recipients of blood transfusions who may have received blood from a donor with an AIDS-related disorder.

This study was to be done in coordination with a similar study going on in San Francisco under the aegis of the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank, San Francisco General Hospital, and the San Francisco Public Health Department.

Some just might call our blood bank's refusal to help fund the proposed study an outright lie, since on paper they have committed themselves to doing just that. Others, being more kind, might just label their news media efforts as image-boosting PR.

I know there are good people who work for the Sacramento Blood Bank. Many staff members, gay and non-gays, men and women—even the new scientific director, Paul Holland, M.D.—have tried to bring about a clear change in our blood bank's direction. Nevertheless, in spite of their good efforts, no changes have yet been wrought.

So why support its present leadership? Why must we continue to say, "Hit me again, Master?" As far as I am concerned, "it does *not* hurt so good," especially when juxtaposed with the following figures:

Nationwide, of the now 3,000 people with AIDS, approximately 2,200 are gay men. If we accept all of the transfusion-associated cases as valid, which even the Centers for Disease Control have not yet done, and combine that number with the unfortunate people with hemophilia who have acquired AIDS, we are talking about a total of 50 or so people.

Twenty-two hundred gay men and 50 transfusion recipients. The scales of concern are not well-balanced—by the media, the government, or our local health agencies.

Yet those *are* the figures, and they keep growing every day.

I say, then, keep your shirt-sleeves rolled down until the Sacramento Blood Bank commits itself to a fundamental change in attitude, direction, and policy.

Remember, you cannot fight for your life unless you're prepared to see the enemy, even when they have cloaked themselves in the camouflage of politically correct language.★

Editor's note: Dr. Pomerantz submitted this essay to The Star as a concerned individual, in the name of no organization.

AS I HEAR IT

We Need To Wake Up

By PHILIP J. HOSKINS

The unprecedented success of the River City Democratic Club in producing the political clout that helped elect a Mayor and city council members sympathetic to gay issues is to be applauded. After years of hiding behind the fear that a local gay rights ordinance was impossible, we asked for and now have an anti-discrimination ordinance passed by the city council.

This is but the first of many steps to be taken. After the passage of AB1, we have the opportunity to ask for a housing ordinance locally and passage of national gay rights legislation.

This is also the year in which we will help elect a president and the stakes are very high for us. The next president will likely be asked to appoint five new members to the U.S. Supreme Court. Since gay rights issues are likely to finally make it to the high court in the next few years, the nature of these appointees is crucial to the question of whether we have rights or not.

On the Democratic side this year the choice seems to be between Walter Mondale and Alan Cranston. While Cranston has been the most vocal in support of gay issues, the money seems to be looking for a Mondale nomination.

It is important that local gays assume visible roles in the coming election. Those of the Republican persuasion need to become visible so that gay issues do not become Democratic issues. There is a danger that the continued alliance of leftist and gay politics will limit our progress.

Many of us are Democrats only because of the dismal record of the other major party with regard to human rights. On other issues, we cover the political spectrum *from radical to ultra-conservative. The fact that Ronald Reagan* and his crew have usurped the Republican party for their own purposes has left those gays of a conservative or moderate view few realistic options.

I suggest that we take a stand within both parties for our right to participate on the same basis as any other party member. We who are Democrats need to stake out a position within the party that is separate from the left-wing cadre. Those who are Republicans should create a gay caucus within the party and start producing money and volunteers for candidates who back gay issues.

Most importantly, we need to wake up to the fact that the incumbent president, if re-elected, may very well be the greatest danger to gays in this century. If he is able to pack the Supreme Court with those who think like him, we may very well see laws passed and approved which deprive us of the simplest of rights.

There is a thin line between freedom and oppression and it is in the hands of the next president to draw that line more indelibly than any other president in this century.

Not even Franklin Roosevelt had that kind of influence on the high court.

Think about that when you pretend that it doesn't really matter who is elected. The power of the next president will be awesome. It may be up to you who that person will be.★

SAGA II's Thanks For Making Trip To Meeting Possible

Editor:

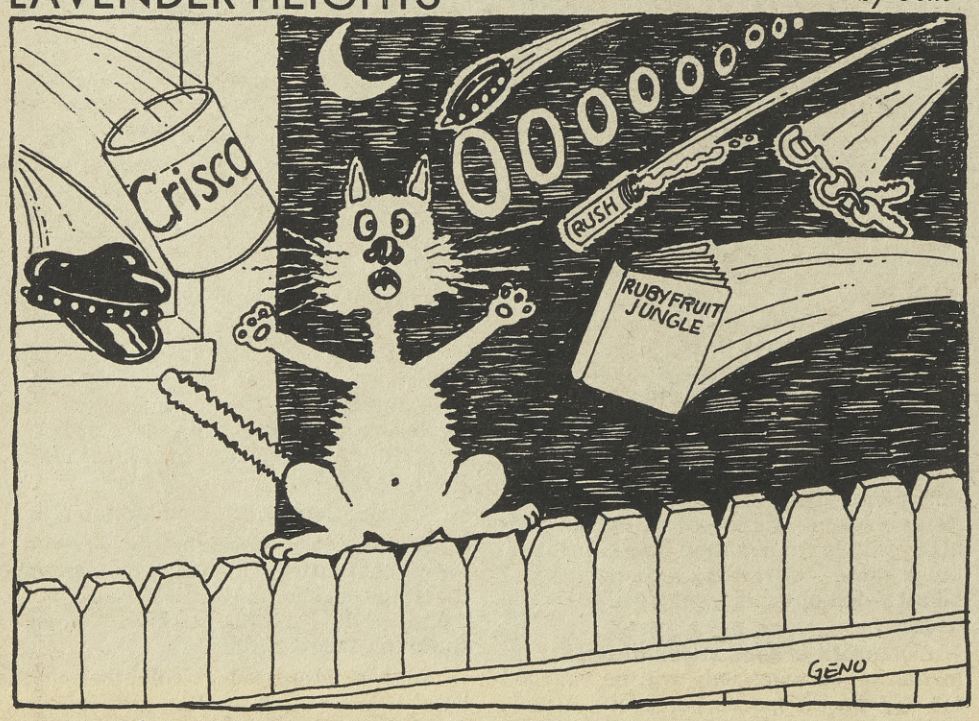
A special thanks to one and all who through your special efforts and contributions made it possible for Sacramento to send representatives to the meetings being held in Minnesota concerning the Gay Games.

With your support SAGA II will be able to keep abreast of all activities on the national and international level, and work toward sending the biggest and finest contingent of athletes from Sacramento to the 1986 Winter and Summer Gay Olympic Games.

Again, many thanks.

NORM FROHWEIN
Chair, Sacramento Athletic Games Association (SAGA II)

LAVENDER HEIGHTS *by Gene*



A NIGHT IN THE LIFE OF A LAVENDER HEIGHTS ALLEY CAT...

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Valley Knights Will Install Officers, Give Awards At Feb. 3 Open Meeting

The Valley Knights Motorcycle Club of Sacramento will hold its next open meeting on Friday, February 3, 1984, at 8 p.m. at the Power Plant.

The profits from the Valley Knights Christmas Show that have been designated to go to the Sacramento Chapter of the AIDS/KS Foundation will be awarded to the foundation at this meeting. Also, the winners of the talent contest of the Christmas Show will be awarded their prizes.

Installation of the Valley Knights 1984 officers will also take place at this meeting. The new officers will be making preliminary plans for the club's spring events such as the garage sale, the spring run, and the anniversary party.

The public is invited to the Valley Knights open meetings. It is not necessary to be a member of the club to participate in most of the Club's activities. Anyone interested in more information should attend the meeting, or write to the Valley Knights at P.O. Box 8163, Sacramento, CA 95818. ★

Our River City Family Schedules Elections For Fourth Anniversary Potluck On Feb. 4

February will mark the fourth anniversary of Our River City Family. As is traditional, a General Business Meeting will be held in conjunction with the monthly potluck on Saturday, February 4, 1984.

Paul Schierenberg, current Director of ORCF, has asked that all members, past and present, attend this very important meeting as significant changes to the organization bylaws will be discussed; as well, elections for 1984 officers will be held.

The hours of the potluck will be 7 to 11 p.m. Those attending are asked to provide a food dish for four to six people and their own drinks. ORCF provides the rest.

For directions and/or further information contact Paul at 371-2946.

ORCF-sponsored volleyball continues on Thursday evenings from 7 to 11 p.m. at Sacramento City College Women's Gym. All equipment is provided; however, a $2.50 admission is charged to cover the cost of gym rental as well as equipment upkeep. Power as well as recreational team play is available.

RELIGION

SF, Oakland Lutheran Churches Welcome Gay Men And Lesbians As Full Members

Two Lutheran churches in the Bay Area have recently "extended an official hand of welcome to gay men and lesbians," according to articles in the Pacific Southwest Lutheran, a church newspaper.

Responding to a national "Reconciled in Christ" program promoted by Lutherans Concerned, the Lutheran gay caucus, the parish council of St. Francis Lutheran Church in San Francisco approved an "Affirmation of Welcome," which states that "because gay and lesbian persons are often scorned by society and alienated from the church, we wish to make known our caring and concern."

St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Oakland took a similar action last fall, the newspaper reported.

The statement by the St. Francis parish council affirms that "gay and lesbian people share with all others the worth that comes from being unique individuals created by God."

It adds that "gay and lesbian people are welcome within the membership of this congregation upon making the same affirmation of faith that all other people make."

The statement also says that lesbian and gay church members are "expected and encouraged to share in the sacramental and general life of our congregation."

The Rev. James DeLange, pastor of St. Francis, said the decision to adopt the affirmation of welcome was not difficult, "because the statements in the affirmation reflect what has been the practice of St. Francis Church for many years."

Pastor DeLange continued, "We are proud to be a part of the 'Reconciled in Christ' project. As a congregation in the heart of a large gay community, we see ourselves both as Christ's servants to that community and advocates on their behalf to the whole church, until the day our Lord makes us all one."

St. Francis Lutheran Church has been located near the intersection of Church and Market Streets since 1905. The congregation consisted originally of Danish and Finnish immigrants, some of whose descendants are still members.

Today the membership of the church reflects the diversity of its neighborhood, including people from a wide variety of ethnic groups and backgrounds. About 15 to 20 percent of the members are gay or lesbian. ★

Filly members John Blake, Debbie Eddy, and Kathy Davenport

10th Anniversary Party For Filly

You are invited to the band Filly's 10-year anniversary party and fund raiser on April 14 at the Forum, 2840 Auburn Blvd., from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

A lot of band members have come and gone over the years, but two of the original members, Kathy Davenport and Debbie Eddy, are still together, making music just for you.

Because women musicians are hard to find in Sacramento, John Blake, the bass player, teamed up with Kathy and Debbie three years ago, completing this unusual trio that plays variety music.

Some of you will remember Filly from the days of the Purple Tortoise Bar, and some of you will remember Filly from a party. But no matter where you remember Filly from, it's a fact that Filly is the first gay-supportive band to last in Sacramento.

Filly's first gig, 10 years ago, was at the Women's Center, then located on 22nd Street. Their last significant performance for the gay community was the 1983 Snow White Champagne Ball.

Filly has recorded two 45 rpm records, one of which was well received by the gay community. The song, written by drummer Kathy Davenport, called "Never Want to Let You Go," is still an audience favorite.

Gay Sacramento needs Filly, so please come out to the Forum on Saturday, April 14, and show them that you care. By doing so, you will help support two needy organizations, as part of the proceeds will be donated to the Sacramento Rape Crisis Center and the Sacramento AIDS Foundation.

Tickets will be priced on a sliding scale from $3 to $5 and may be purchased at the door. ★

SAGA II Sends Two Reps To Meeting On '86 Gay Games

The Sacramento Athletic Games Association will be sending two representatives, Norm Frohwein and Mark Harrison, to Minnesota to attend a series of meetings concerning the Gay Winter and Summer Games that will be held in San Francisco in 1986.

The Association is making this possible due to the efforts of Ernie Brown and Linda Garcia, members of SAGA II's fund raising committee, who have worked extremely hard to raise the necessary funds on rather short notice. Alli and Alvina put on a buffet at the Broadway Ltd. Norm, Mark and Elizabeth Harrison hosted a wine and cheese party in their home; Bobbette, a taco feed at the Mercantile; and Ernie and Linda an auction also at the Mercantile with assistance from Tina Barbosa, Chuck Thornley, Didgette, Skip, Anna Harrison and Jeff.

SAGA II sincerely appreciates all the support from these individuals and the community in reaching our goal of sending representatives to this meeting.

SAGA II will host a no-tap, handicap bowling tournament, Saturday, February 25 at 2 p.m., at Land Park Brunswick Bowl. In a no-tap tournament, if nine of the pen pins are knocked down on the first ball, it is counted as a strike. The entry fee will be $6 per individual. For reservations or information watch for flyers or call Jan at 391-4386, in the evenings.

Also coming up in February is a roller skating party, hosted by Bobby S. for SAGA II. Watch for dates and details.

SAGA II will have an open board meeting at the Incredible Edible at 7 p.m., February 2. The public is invited. For information regarding SAGA II's role in the Gay Games, contact Norm at 443-6440.★

CANCELLED

The Star's public relations workshop for groups *and individuals in the gay/lesbian community,* scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 28, has been cancelled for lack of response. We regret any inconvenience.

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ENTERTAINMENT

You'll Love 'The Movie Lover'

Everybody Gets What's Coming To Them

"The Movie Lover" by Richard Friedel. Alyson Publications, Inc., Boston, MA. Softbound, 300 pages. $6.95

Reviewed by RICK RUMAN

In "The Movie Lover," Richard Friedel has taken your basic boy-meets-boy story, fleshed it out a bit, populated it with characters with whom we can all identify, and tied the whole thing together with a witty literate style that you won't find in your average overly-cinematic Stephen King novel.

The hero, Burton Raider, tells us he was never a child—at least not intellectually or emotionally. He bides his time waiting for physical adulthood reading Vogue magazine in his playpen, developing his sensibilities, avoiding physical activity (with the exception of tap dancing) and, most of all, watching old movies.

Even if you can't identify with Burton, you can't fail to be amused by his observations on the passing scene. In particular, look for his descriptions of his trips to a New York leather bar and to the supermarket with his lover.

I found all of the characters in the book believable and engaging. I fell in love with some, wanted to throttle others, and felt great sympathy for a few. In fact, Friedel gives such a convincing background to a faded movie star, Marietta, that I went scrambling for my film reference books to make certain that he had in fact created her.

Friedel knows his films, and refers to them throughout the book to create an image or draw a scene. Each chapter in the book is given the title of some reasonably well know film, providing the astute reader and avid film buff with some clues as to the forthcoming action.

At times Friedel's film references may be a bit obscure (his mother speaks to him at one point "with an unpleasant Bonita Granville color in her voice") even if they are in keeping with Burton's character. But he can be forgiven this minor flaw for creating more than stereotypes in his characters.

Sparks Compton *is* every cretinous lout who ever badgered you for the answers to the geometry homework. Winston Walker is every man you ever dated who took childlike delight in things that *annoyed* you. Roman DeMarco is every unaffected athletic boy you lusted after in high school—and beyond.

Friedel's writing is by turns sad and touching, wildly comic in the slapstick vein, and literate and witty.

Listen to the way Burton describes his gym teacher:

> He was a hulking figure of vanquished pro-football dreams. His arms were lengthy; he was quite capable of scratching his shins without compromising his posture. If Charles Darwin had lived to see Mr. Steele, he would have said, "*Now* do you believe me?"

If you like the kind of book where everyone, good or bad, gets what's coming to them—just like in the movies—you'll love "The Movie Lover."★

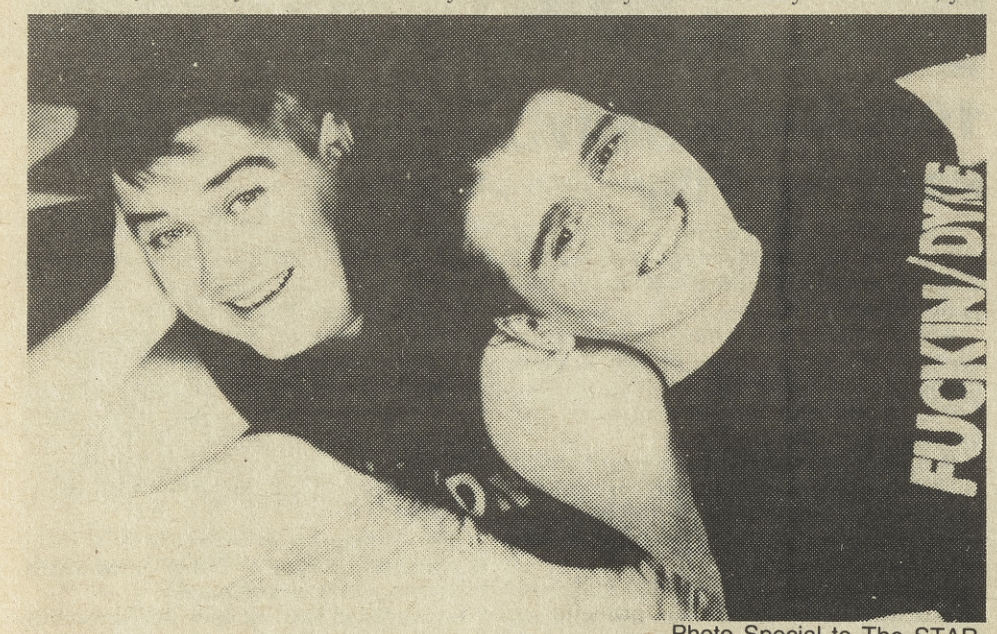

Photo Special to The STAR

Lea DeLaria and Jeanine Strobel will headline the Night of Music and Comedy sponsored by the Campaign for Family Partner Benefits at the Sierra II Theatre on Friday, Feb. 3 at 8 p.m. Also on the bill are the gay singing/comedy team of Romanovsky and Phillips. Tickets are $6 and may be purchased at Lioness Books.

DeLaria & Strobel Will Headline Family Partner Benefits Show

San Francisco's Lea DeLaria, lesbian comic and musician, accompanied by Jeanine Strobel, and the gay comedy/singing team of Ron Romanovsky and Paul Phillips, will appear Friday, Feb. 3, at 8 p.m. at the Sierra II theatre in a benefit for the Campaign For Family Partner Benefits.

DeLaria and Strobel will be returning from a performing tour in Florida. They are seen regularly at the Valencia Rose in San Francisco and have appeared at the West Coast Women's Music and Comedy Festival, the Castro Street Fair, and the Harvey Milk Birthday Celebration. Their blend of slick acoustic jazz and outrageous comedy has won them raves.

Romanovsky and Phillips are singer/songwriters who present intelligent, humorous, gay-oriented lyrics with striking vocal harmonies. They recently returned from a three-month tour that began in San Diego and ended in New England. They have performed at the 8th Annual Conference on Men and Masculinity in Ann Arbor, at the Gay and Lesbian Pride Day in Boston, and in clubs and concert halls in Minneapolis, Chicago, Madison, St. Louis, Oberlin, Philadelphia, New York, Rochester, Boston and Portland. They have gained a solid reputation for their soaring harmonies, witty lyrics and unpredictable stage antics.

The show will begin at 8 p.m. in the Sierra II theatre, 2791 24th Street. The ticket donation is $6. Tickets will be available at the door or from Lioness Bookstore, 2224 J Street. For more information call 965-6851.

Community Health Network Presents Reporters Awards

A reception honoring Sacramento's most civic-minded media representatives will be held on Friday, January 27, at the Community Services Planning Council, 1820 J Street.

This second annual "Media Awards and Wine Sip" will honor 12 members of Sacramento's Press Corps.

Award recipients were selected by eight member organizations of the Community Health Network, a coalition of small non-profit public health education agencies that serve the needs of Sacramento residents.

"We established these awards to give recognition to those in the media who have greatly facilitated our public awareness efforts," said Debbie Oto-Kent, Director of the Hypertension Council and Co-Chair of the Community Health Network.

"Because we are small voluntary organizations with limited budgets, we are very appreciative of those in the media who promote our messages through widely viewed, widely read, and widely listened-to sources."

Those receiving the Community Health Network's 1983 Media Recognition Awards include: Linda Arcuri, Channel 10; Sherry Canebori, Daily Democrat; Jim Finnerty, Channel 3; Stan Gilliam, Sacramento Bee; Patricia Harris, Channel 40; Alan Howard, Channel 10; Mary Kay Johnson, Channel 3; Jean LaMotte, Channel 10; Herb Michelson, Sacramento Bee; Sue Pearson, Channel 3; Ron Powell, Sacramento Bee; and Ann Richards, Sacramento Union.

Members of the Community Health Network are AIDS/Kaposi's Sarcoma Foundation; American Lupus Society; Child Abuse Council of Sacramento, Inc.; Diabetes Association; Head Trauma Support Project; Sacramento Heart Research Foundation; Sacramento Valley/Sierra Hypertension Council; and United Scleroderma Foundation.

The Wine Sip will be held from 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the Planning Council's Conference room, 1820 J Street. Awards will be presented at 5 p.m.★

The Sacramento STAR

Reaching Your Community Every Two Weeks!

The Star is planning a feature on couples for our Valentine's Day issue of February 8. We would like to hear from you if you have an interesting story to tell about how you met your lover or if you and your lover have been together for a long time — 10, 15, 20 years or more.

Give us a call at 443-STAR or send us a letter to P.O. Box 160300, Suite 156, Sacramento 95816, before February 1.

Everybody loves

The Movie Lover!

THE MOVIE LOVER
by Richard Friedel

"The funniest gay novel of the year." — *Christopher Street*

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P-8

Grisly Murders Provide Chilling Surprises In EMPAC 'Deathtrap'

Reviewed by KARL NEUBUERGER

The best drama is not unlike the best music. A theme is presented, its exposition is executed, and at that moment of expectation preceding the crescendo or conclusion, an unexpected turn occurs. A new theme is presented, or the old one is suddenly exposed in a new way.

Beethoven is the undisputed master of this compositional technique, and Ira Levin has applied it in the realm of drama with consummate mastery in his play "Deathtrap," the premier offering in the 1984 Mainstage series at EMPAC (the Eleanor McClatchy Performing Arts Center, 1408 H Street).

"Deathtrap" opened to a nearly full house Thursday evening January 19, and runs Thursday through Sunday, January 26-29, February 2-5, and February 9-12.

"Deathtrap" is the story of Sidney Bruhl. Bruhl is a has-been writer of mystery plays who has run out of ideas. His determination to bask in the limelight again drives him to act out the subject of his past dramatic successes—murder.

The play is set in a converted mill that serves as Bruhl's study, its walls lined with assorted implements of death and mayhem. These mementos of mystery dramas and films lend a sinister aspect to the country warmth of Bruhl's retreat.

As the action begins, Bruhl is brooding over a manuscript sent him by a student he has taught in a writing seminar. The student's play begins, "'Deathtrap.' A thriller in two acts. One set, five characters. A juicy murder in Act One, unexpected developments in Act Two. Sound construction, good dialogue, laughs in the right places. Highly commercial." These lines, of course, describe the play that, by twists, turns, and surprises, unfolds before the audience.

Sidney and his nervous wife Myra plot to do away with Clifford Anderson, the student, and to claim the promising play for themselves. The effect is chilling as the sedate country writer's study suddenly becomes the scene of grisly murder.

The presence of Dutch psychic Helga ten Dorp complicates the action. She is visiting a nearby estate, resting from using her clairvoyant powers in assisting the police departments of Europe to solve crimes.

Michael Hunter's portrayal of Sidney Bruhl seemed a bit stiff. His delivery was barely audible at a few crucial moments. He did not come across as the suave but scheming country gentleman Levin obviously intended him to be. Levin's lines outshine Hunter's delivery, however, and it was easy to descry the author's intent.

Janice Akers as Myra Bruhl gracefully portrayed the elegance and nervousness of her character. Her delivery also seemed strained in the beginning. She warmed to the task early on, however, and one could only attribute her initial stiffness to opening night jitters.

Arthur P. Greer seemed ideally cast as Clifford Anderson. This hunk exuded blond-boy-next-door charm, and the other actors seemed energized by his magnetic presence. Despite his power on stage, his performance was neither affected nor overwhelming.

Lill Estlander Wilder as Helga ten Dorp and James Roberts as Porter Milgrim, Bruhl's attorney, both played their roles skillfully. Wilder was an exuberant Helga, but her "Dutch" accent seemed more German-Swedish. In the scenes in which she exercised her psychic powers, her clairvoyance seemed authentic. Roberts had the proper combination of corpulence and bombast that one expects in an Eastern Establishment lawyer.

Essential to this play is the ever-lurking element of surprise. Like Beethoven, Levin finds great joy in taking the unexpected turn at the exact moment when all seems settled. The resulting surprises are shocking and sometimes gruesome. What seems most sinister about the play is Levin's ability to make the audience relish the mayhem taking place on stage by spicing it with wit.

"Deathtrap" is definitely worth seeing. The play's own power transcends the production's few problems, and its selection as EMPAC's series opener was a stroke of genius.

Tickets are $6.50, with a $1 discount for seniors and students. Call the EMPAC Box Office, 443-6722, for reservations.★

EMPAC Photo by Swannie Hoehn

Michael Hunter as playwright Sidney Bruhl interrogates Arthur P. Greer, playing Clifford Anderson, in this scene from the EMPAC production of "Deathtrap," directed by Dennis Bigelow.

Meadow Lake Camp: Recreational Opportunity 'Especially For Women'

Women from throughout California welcomed the arrival of 1984 at Meadow Lake Camp, "Especially for Women." Bungalows scattered around the grounds of the beautiful resort were all filled, and a holiday warmth radiated from hearth and heart. A delightful spectrum of musical entertainment was provided by Fresno's own famous women DJ's—JJ & Co.—and a brilliant fireworks display climaxed the evening.

Meadow Lake, a private facility for women members, closed the period for charter membership at the end of 1983 with scores of members from California and the other western states. Barbara Rohde, owner/director, announced plans to make available a total of 600 memberships for the first year of operation ending July 1, 1984. The annual membership is presently offered for $75 or $125 for two-women households.

The camp has been hailed as a model of progressive recreational opportuniy for women. The marketing concept couples investment and employment objectives with the consumer needs of this special population.

For information call or write: (209) 855-8994; P.O. Box 15419, Fresno, CA 93702.

Enter SF Lesbian/ Gay Film Fest Now

Entries are now being accepted for the 8th San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, June 18-24, 1984. Held each year during San Francisco's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Celebration, the Festival brings together the best in feature, documentary and short films by and about lesbians and gay men.

The Festival has been established by Frameline, a non-profit media organization, to develop an audience for lesbian and gay cinema and to promote a demand for quality productions and wider exhibition both within and outside the lesbian and gay community.

Presented at the Castro and Roxie theatres in San Francisco and at the Pacific Film Archive in Berkeley, the 1983 Festival included over 60 film and video works screened to audiences numbering more than 7,000.

Awards will be presented to outstanding films in the categories of feature, documentary and short films. The deadline for entries is May 1, 1984. Formats accepted are 35mm, 16mm, super-8, and ¾" video cassette.

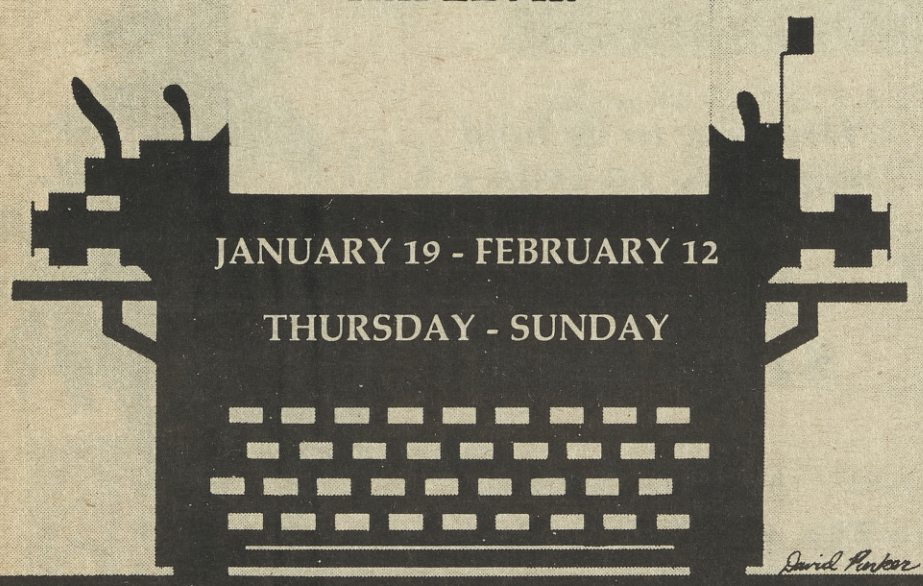
For more information and entry forms contact: Frameline, P.O. Box 14792, San Francisco, CA 94114; (415) 861-5245.★

MAINSTAGE

DEATHTRAP

BY

IRA LEVIN



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Send a Free Valentine to the One(s) You Love.

Use the classified ad form in this issue of The Star to send a two-line Valentine's Day greeting, free, in the February 8 issue of The Star. Deadline: Free Valentines must reach The Star by Monday, February 6.

ITEMS

Such A Relief

By RICK VAN DYKE

River City Democratic Club will benefit from ticket sales for two concerts of vocal music by professional tenor **Curtis Lymas** at the **K Street** on Sunday, Jan. 29. Tickets are $5, and $4 of that will go to RCDC to replenish the treasury, seriously depleted by contributions to candidates for the fall elections. The program, to be performed at 6 and 8 p.m., will consist of popular songs, showtunes, and classical pieces. Call one of these RCDC members to get your tickets: **Ron Gray,** 441-4594; **Larry Fox,** 453-0635; **Stacy Selmants,** 443-2543; or **Karl Greene,** 448-4427.

You can still get tickets for the **Night of Music and Comedy** featuring **Romanovsky & Phillips** and **DeLaria & Strobel** on Friday, Feb. 3, at 8 p.m. at the Sierra II Theatre. It's a fund-raiser for the **Campaign for Family Partner Benefits.** Tickets are $6 each at **Lioness Books**).

A videotape of a talk show on **"Understanding and Relating to our Gay Children"** will be shown at the meeting of **Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays,** Tuesday, Feb. 7, at 7:30 p.m. in Room 255 of Carmichael Presbyterian Church, 5645 Marconi Ave. Featured in the tape are **Adelle Starr,** president of the International Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, a psychologist, and a moderator. For more information on the program or PFLAG, call **Merrill Follansbee,** 428-4348.

The first concert in **Spectra 84,** a concert series of women's music being produced by **Satin Jacket Productions** to raise money for the **Sacramento Women's Center,** will feature **Mary Watkins and Gayle Marie with Jan Martinelli** on Saturday, Feb. 11, at 8 p.m. in the McClatchy High School Auditorium. Other performers in the series will be the **Robin Flower Band** on March 10, and **Judy Fjell/Nancy Vogl and Suzanne P. Shanbaum** on April 14. Single ticket prices range from $7-$10 per concert, series tickets are $18-$27 for three concerts, and special Friends of the Series tickets are $50 for the three concerts. Reservations at least two weeks in advance of the concerts are required. Buy your tickets at **Lioness Books,** 2224 J Street, co-sponsor of Spectra 84, or order them from P.O. Box 162848, Sacramento 95816.

Also scheduled for Feb. 11 is **La Raza del Ambiente's Valentine's Ball,** 8 p.m. till 1 a.m. at **The Forum.** The dance will feature one of Sacramento's hottest Latin bands. Tickets are $5 in advance and $7 at the door. Call **Chica** at 444-6371 for ticket info.

Everyone is invited to a **Susan B. Anthony and Friends Birthday Party** on Tuesday, February 14, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the First Sacramento Women's Building, 2224 J Street. Admission to the event, a benefit for **Goddess Rising,** a non-profit educational and spiritual organization, is $3, and refreshments are free. Though the actual date of Susan B's birthday is Feb. 15, organizer **Ann Forfreedom** says, "We can celebrate her life, and our futures, on the 14th." For more information, call 451-9970.

Rick Van Dyke

I hear that lesbian and gay Christians should be on hand at the **Homophobia Seminars** at the **First United Methodist Church,** 21st and J Streets, to give each other support and to show that what they say about us isn't true. The seminars are from 5 to 7 on Sunday evenings, Jan. 29, Feb. 12, and Feb. 26. *I'm told that at the first meeting a lot of anti-gay feelings were aired without any provision for correcting them with accurate information.*

The winter 1983 issue of Special Edition, published by the **Cream City Business Association** of Milwaukee, features photos of the recent convention of the **National Association of Business Councils,** taken by Star managing editor **Tim Warford,** with a nice credit to Tim and The Star.

According to **Terry Sidee,** proprietor of **Bojangles,** our item last time about porn star **Leo Ford's** performance at **BJ's** on New Year's Eve was in error. He says that Leo's act was "risque," but not so, shall we say, *climactic*, as previously reported. It's *such* a relief to know that.

The **AIDS Foundation's Grand Hawaiian Raffle** will take place on Feb. 19, so you can still get your tickets. They're only a dollar, and you could win roundtrip airfare for two to Hawaii, plus accommodations for a week.

There's still time to tell **The Star** how you and your lover met, for a feature on couples in our Feb. 8 **Valentine's Day** issue. We'd also especially like to hear from couples who have been together for 10, 15, 20 years or more. Call 443-STAR, or write to The Sacramento Star, P.O. Box 160300, Suite 156, Sacramento 95816, by Feb. 1.

Joe Balestreri invites anyone interested in clogging to a **Clogging Party** with **Sutter's Stompers** and **Ron Brewer** on Wednesday, Feb. 8, from 7 to 10 p.m. in the **Volcano Room** at **Coloma Community School,** 4623 T Street. There'll be exhibition dancing, mixers, and refreshments. I think it's a ploy to lure you to the group's new class for beginning cloggers, same place, same time, on Wednesday, Feb. 15 and 22. Call Joe, 455-7002, for more information.

Congratulations to Star writer **Joan Derrick,** who has been appointed to the **Committee on Social Ministry** of **St. John's Lutheran Church,** 17th and L Streets. Part of the responsibility of this committee is to focus on important social issues, particularly within the community the church serves, and to suggest ways to deal with them in the spirit of Christian love.

Gay political activist **Gary Miller** is honored as **Employee of the Month** in the January issue of SETA Scene, the newsletter of the **Sacramento Employment and Training Agency.** Good show, Gary!

The **Old Eagle Theatre** in Old Sacramento will present the Sacramento premiere of **"Mass Appeal"** on Friday, Feb. 3. "Mass Appeal" will play Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. through March 10. The play is "a brilliantly funny yet compassionate story about the relationship between a comfortably established older priest, Father Farley, and the impassioned young seminarian, Mark, whom he reluctantly agrees to take under his wing." Tickets are $6 general admission; $4 for students and seniors, and are available at the EMPAC Box Office, 1419 H Street, or at all BASS outlets.

In other theatre news, **Sacramento City Actor's Theatre,** based in Sac City College's Art Court Theatre, will audition for parts in the musical **"Annie Get Your Gun"** on Tuesday-Thursday, Jan. 31-Feb. 2, at 7:30 p.m. Interested singers, dancers, and actors should call 449-7537 for more info. SCAT's new production of **"Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf"** will play Performances will be Feb. 3-4, 10-11, 17-18, and 24-25 at 8 p.m. in the SCC Art Court Theatre. Call 449-7537 for ticket info.

A free conference on **Gay and Lesbian Legal Issues and Legal Careers** will be held Saturday, Feb. 4, at Golden Gate University, 536 Mission Street, San Francisco, from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m. **Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom** and gay and lesbian student groups from local law schools will sponsor the conference. Featured will be panel discussions on what it's like to be gay or lesbian in the legal community, and on different legal issues facing the lesbian/gay community. A wine and cheese reception will follow the conference, to give participants a chance to get to know each other, share ideas, and get support for legal careers.★

Gay And Lesbian Orthodox And Eastern Christians Sought For Support Group

Two Sacramento men have announced that they will try to start a local chapter of Axios, an organization for gay and lesbian Eastern and Orthodox Christians. Preferring that they not be identified at this time, they ask interested people to contact them in care of The Star. Write Axios, c/o The Sacramento Star, P.O. Box 160300, Suite 156, Sacramento, CA 95816.

The two feel that Sacramento could be a good place for such a group, because it has a relatively large number of Orthodox and Eastern Catholic churches. In the area are Russian, Greek, Serbian, and Antiochian Orthodox churches, and Melkite and Ruthenian Greek Catholic churches.

Simple statistics, according to the two men, suggest that there may be 50 to 100 other gay and lesbian Eastern and Orthodox Christians in the greater Sacramento area.

Axios is a national organization, entering its fourth year, with local groups in Los Angeles and New York City. Since the official position of the Orthodox bodies, as demonstrated in their threat to leave the National Council of Christian Churches if the Metropolitan Community Church was admitted, is strongly anti-gay, organizing a support group for Eastern Christians is both difficult and much-needed.

Because the Eastern and Orthodox churches tend also to be strongly family-oriented ethnic communities, their lesbian and gay members are likewise both very attached to their traditions and customs and at the same time under great pressure because of those customs, the local organizers explained.

Axios, according to its bylaws, "is organized for gay and lesbian Eastern and Orthodox Christians to gather in a sustaining social and cultural framework which will support and provide for our mutual spiritual strength, stability and well-being; for the promotion of ecumenical unity; and for our desire to bind the church community to the gay community with love and through dialogue, prayer, service and education."

The bylaws continue: "For the comfort, help, and support of each other, our families, and our friends in overcoming our burdens, healing our infirmities, discovering the fulness of God's purpose, and in realizing the joys and responsibilities of the wondrous gift of sexuality; for protection and a good defense against repression, acts of intolerance and blind bigotry, and to serve as a Sanctuary for the cast out and fallen."

Other purposes include "the study of our rich heritage and educating others in the true tradition" and "the founding of a gathering place of love and friendship for all of our brothers and sisters where we all may gain a true sense of appreciation for each other and achieve a spirit of fun and enjoyment in our development as individuals, as Family, and as Community."

The local organizers of Axios urge other gay men and lesbians who are Orthodox or Eastern Catholic to contact them through The Star. "We have so much to offer each other and the whole community, with the theological, liturgical, and cultural riches of our unique traditions," they said. "Join us."★

YWCA Sets Rummage Sale St. Pat's Day

On the day for wearin' of the green you'll be wearin' a smile at the YWCA Rummage Sale and Auction, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, March 17.

"Bargains for all" is the key phrase as this YWCA fundraiser brings together all the excitement of a flea market, street fair and auction. Location for the event is 17th Street between K and L Streets.

The YWCA has been collecting items for the sale for a year, but more donations (tax-deductible) are always welcome.

Rental space is also available for individuals who'd like to take this opportunity to sell their own items. Booth space is 10 feet by 10 feet and the fee is $10.

If you have a donation or want to rent a booth, please call the YWCA at 442-4741.★

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CALENDAR

Wednesday, January 25

★ The STAR is published.

★ Clogging for beginners, presented by Ron Brewer and Sutter's Stompers. Call Rich, 448-2036, for information. Volcano Room, Coloma Community Center, 4623 T Street. 7-8:30 p.m.

★ AIDS Foundation Board meeting. Open to the public. AIDS Foundation office, 2115 J St., Ste. 3. 6:30 p.m.

★ Sacramento Men's Collective open rap. La Semilla. 7:30 p.m. Call 441-1959 for information.

Thursday, January 26

★ Support group for women facing major life changes. Sponsored by Women Changing Direction. First Sacramento Women's Building, 2224 J St. Child care available by prior arrangement. For info: 444-8050. 7-9 p.m.

★ Volleyball for men and women. Sponsored by Our River City Family. $2.50 facilities fee. Call Paul, 371-2946, for info. Sacramento City College Women's Gym. 7-11 p.m.

Friday, January 27

★ Batya Podos from London performs her one-woman play "Madam Louise and the Miracle Baby." One-night only. $3 at the door. First Sacramento Women's Building, 2224 J St. 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 28

★ Sacramento Women's Rugby Team plays Stanford at Stanford.

★ "Homosexuality and Human Liberation." Lecture by feminist theologian Rosemary Radford Reuther. Sponsored by the Consultation on Homosexuality, Social Justice, and Roman Catholic Theology. Garret Evangelical Theological Seminary. For details, contact Catholics for Human Dignity, 703 Market Street, Suite 251, San Francisco 94103.

Sunday, January 29

★ Worship Service. The Rev. Freda Smith preaching. Young people's rap & social hour afterwards. River City Metropolitan Community Church, 2741 34th St. 454-4762. 11 a.m.

★ Chrysalis Neighborhood Church worship service. 3700 Y Street. 6 p.m. 736-0113 or 453-0791 for information.

★ Seminar on Homophobia. Second of four seminars led by Revs. John Moore and Marilyn Ericksen. Terrace Room, First United Methodist Church, 21st and J Streets. 5-7 p.m. For more information, call Marilyn Ericksen at 446-5025.

★ Special Music Service presented by the Music Department of River City Metropolitan Community Church. 2741 34th St. 6 p.m.

★ Vocal Concert: Popular, Classical, Showtunes. Tenor Curtis Lymas. $5. Benefits to River City Democratic Club campaign fund. 6 and 8 p.m. For tickets: Ron Gray, 441-4594; Larry Fox, 453-0635; Stacy Selmants, 443-2543; Karl Greene, 448-4427.

Monday, January 30

★ A showing of works on paper in gouache and oil pastel by Chris Kidd opens. Runs through Feb. 24. Earhart's Cafe, 1905 16th St. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

★ "Cults in the Religious Experience," presented by Cyndy Nayber, River City Metropolitan Community Church staff member. 2741 34th St. 8 p.m.

Tuesday, January 31

★ Capital City Squares. Coloma Community Center, 46th & T St. Call 488-2440 (days) or 486-0150 (eves). 7 p.m.

★ Raza del Ambiente, gay/lesbian Hispanic organization, meets. New members welcome. 7:30 p.m. Call Chica at 444-6371 for more info.

Wednesday, February 1

★ Deadline for The STAR

★ Planning meeting for 1984 Lesbian/Gay Freedom Celebration. Interested people welcome. Incredible Edible. 7 p.m.

Thursday, February 2

★ Sacramento Athletic Games Association (SAGA II) open meeting. Incredible Edible, 7 p.m.

★ Sacramento Lesbian/Gay Freedom Week Committee. Open planning meeting. First Sacramento Women's Building, 2224 J St. 7 p.m. Call Jerry Sloan, 381-3115, for information.

★ Volleyball for men and women. Sponsored by Our River City Family. $2.50 facilities fee. Call Paul, 371-2946, for info. Sacramento City College Women's Gym. 7-11 p.m.

★ Discussion of the situation in Lebanon by Allan Solomonow of the American Friends Service Committee. Sponsored by Middle East Task Force of Sacramento Peace Center. Free. La Semilla, 312 20th St. 7:30 p.m. Call 446-0787 for more information.

Friday, February 3

★ A Night of Music and Comedy, featuring DeLaria & Strobel and Romanovsky & Phillips. Sponsored by the Campaign for Family Partner Benefits. Tickets $6 available at Lioness Books. Sierra II Theatre, 24th St. & Castro Way. 8 p.m.

★ Supervisor Harry Britt of San Francisco. Fundraiser for La Semilla Cultural Center. $5 donation. La Semilla, 312 20th St. 5:30-7:30 p.m.

★ Valley Knights Motorcycle Club open meeting. Installation of officers, presentation of awards to Christmas talent show winners. The Power Plant. 8 p.m.

Saturday, February 4

★ Conference on Gay and Lesbian Legal Issues and Legal Careers. Free; registration at the door. Golden Gate University, 536 Mission St., San Francisco. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

★ Orion Fellowship Alliance. Potluck and fellowship for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual Seventh Day Adventists and friends. Box 181, Sacramento 95801. Call Karen, 447-8125 for time, place, more information.

See Page 8

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BOOKS

Lioness Books. Sacramento's women's bookstore. First Sacramento Women's Building, 2224 J Street. 442-4657.

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Shop Carefully To Insure Savings, Confidentiality

Just about now, you've either gotten or will be getting your least favorite piece of mail for the year. Your friends at the Internal Revenue Service have sent you your yearly reminder that Uncle Sam wants you—to pay him some money.

Certainly, taxes are no fun. Even if you're getting a nice little refund from the government, you'll have to go through some paperwork in order to get it. And those folks at the IRS have very little sense of humor. They want their pages filled out neatly, accurately, and truthfully.

So, the best thing to do is get it over with as quickly as possible, so that you don't have to deal with it again. But if your tax return isn't properly done, you'll have a real headache; an IRS audit can be at least demoralizing, and at worst, a heavy experience that may cost you extra taxes—with perhaps penalties added.

To get around this worrisome paperwork, many people employ either accountants or tax consultants; that's a great idea, if they really are professionals at the game, but for many others of us, it can be an expensive proposition, even if the costs are a deduction—on your taxes for *next* year.

So, when problems arise, it seems reasonable to go to one of the little offices that spring up in towns all over America, loudly proclaiming cheap, cheap, cheap help for all your tax needs. Is it a good idea? Maybe so, maybe not.

Recently, an Eastern chain of tax offices was closed, and the IRS audited *all* the returns of all the clients of the firm. Seems that the enterprise was listing deductions for its clients that did not exist, and using tax breaks that did not apply to their circumstances. Another recent tax scandal involved several big-name personalities on the West Coast, who were presented with bills for huge amounts of cash that should have been paid earlier.

If you're an ordinary American taxpayer, you want to pay the government exactly what you owe it—no less, and certainly no more. You're probably confused about how to do that, so you want to go to a professional for help. That's the first key, right there. Many of the fly-by-night offices you will see are staffed by people much like you who have crammed a course in taxes, and are only a step ahead of you in really knowing what's going on.

Another consideration, one of particular concern to gay and lesbian people, is that your professional tax-preparer will have in his or her hands a great deal of personal information on your life. Reputable tax-preparers should be like a lawyer or a doctor: accustomed to handling and keeping secrets. Not only will this person know your salary and financial condition, but your living arrangements, the costs of your legal fees, and what they covered, where and how you spend your money.

In or out of the closet, you have personal information that should not be carelessly divulged. Can you entrust this data to an unknown person at the storefront down the street? Do you even want a friend who's "good" at taxes to have it?

That leads up to several rules to remember when you're getting ready to tell all to the IRS. Keep cool and steady, and consider what you're doing.

First, how necessary is it for you to file a long form with all the trouble that involves? Check the first pages of the tax booklet to see what the limits are for reporting on the short form, an easy tax return you can prepare yourself. Did you make less money than the limit for it? If so, your next step is to sit down and try to figure what deductions you can make. Add up the ones you can easily identify: interest payments, state taxes, local taxes, sales taxes, contributions to charity, union dues, subscriptions to professional journals, expenses related to your work, some of your medical fees, and so on. You'll find a list of some of those kinds of deductions in your tax packet.

After adding them up, do they total at least the amount of the standard exemption the government allows? If you have more, or nearly enough, you may want to try the long form yourself; or, you may choose to go to the tax preparer.

Before you consult any of them, choose a selection of names you have seen and consult the Better Business Bureau about them. Avoid any who have complaints filed for their practices. Next, shop around.

Consult each of them, asking how long they have been in business—you want someone with experience, not a neophyte that will learn on your time. Ask if only one person will prepare your statement, or if it will be checked by another member of the staff. That's a safeguard some offices provide to avoid annoying mistakes.

By all means, make sure that the company will agree to accompany you to any audit that may arise from your return. If you found the form too difficult to fill out, you'll certainly be no match for an auditor who will question you about it. You've come for help, and that help should be guaranteed until your return is clear.

Make sure that whoever prepares your return signs it at the proper line. That shows the IRS that someone else helped you, and that any mistakes may not be intentional on your part.

Above all, provide your tax consultant with all the data needed. Your legitimate deductions must be backed up by documents, and the consultant will not be able to do as well as you want without the paperwork.

Beware flat-rate offers! Your return is your personal document, and will very likely require some personal attention. Investigate just what is included on a "$49 Tax Special." It may not cover your needs adequately.

No, you may not claim your lover as your dependent. No, you may not file a joint return with your lover, either. However, if you share a house, there may be ways to set one of you up as an owner and the other as a renter in order to qualify your home as a business write-off. That kind of consideration demands a tax preparer with an open mind and an understanding of the special problems of lesbian and gay people, another reason to check around for help.

It's not going to be any more fun this year than it ever was. But if you are as careful with your taxes as you are with your body and your legal questions, you should find a professional that can at least make it easier for you. Make sure that whoever you choose makes it safe and secure for you, too.

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CSUS Slates Events Feb. 6-8 For Black History Month

In recognition of Black History Month, the Women's Resource Center, in conjunction with the Black History Month Coalition at California State University, Sacramento, invites the public to attend a series of films and lectures.

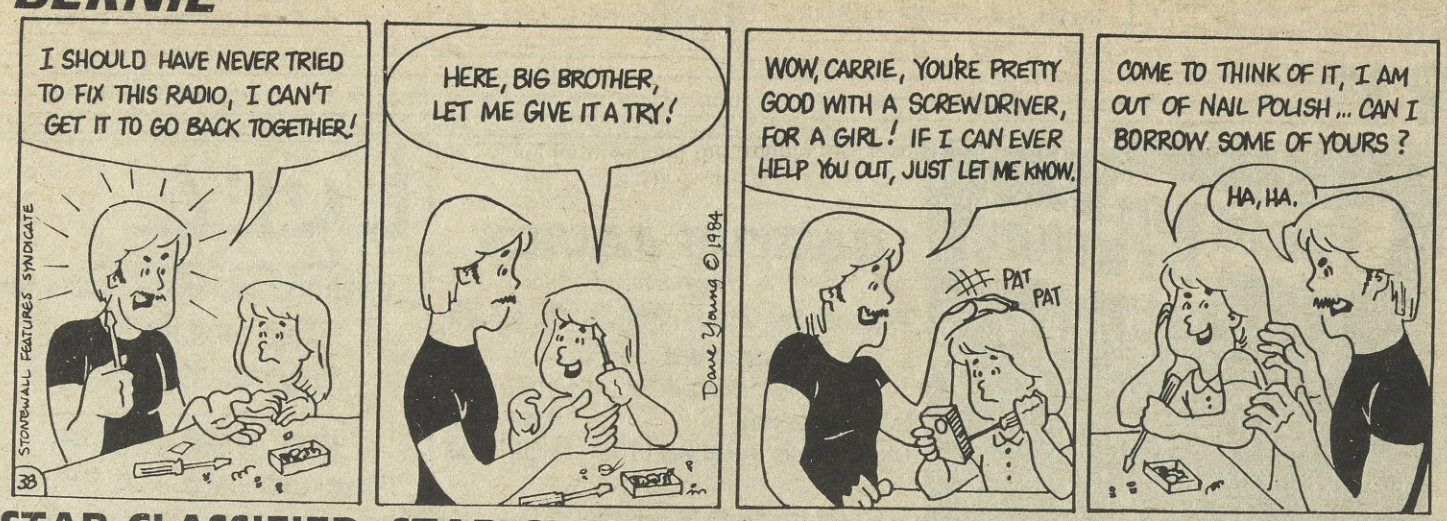
Monday, February 6, 1984
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Films:
"Black History: Lost, Stolen, or Strayed" (9 a.m.)
"To Be Young, Gifted, and Black" (10 a.m.)
"Amazing Grace" (12 noon)
"I Have A Dream" (2 p.m.)
"Hajj Malik-El SHABAZZ - Malcolm X (3 p.m.)

Tuesday, February 7, 1984
12 noon
Guest Lecturer:
"How Will Advance Technology Affect Blacks In The Future?"
Mel Assagai, Senator Roberti's Chief Assistant & Member of Sac. Tele-Communications Forum

Wednesday, February 15, 1984
3 p.m.
Guest Lecturer:
"Racism In The Educational System"
Dorothy C. Parrish, Director of Personnel for the City of Berkeley

All events will be held at California State University, Sacramento, 6000 J Street, in the University Union's Redwood Room.

BERNIE


I SHOULD HAVE NEVER TRIED TO FIX THIS RADIO, I CAN'T GET IT TO GO BACK TOGETHER!
HERE, BIG BROTHER, LET ME GIVE IT A TRY!
WOW, CARRIE, YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD WITH A SCREWDRIVER, FOR A GIRL! IF I CAN EVER HELP YOU OUT, JUST LET ME KNOW.
PAT PAT
COME TO THINK OF IT, I AM OUT OF NAIL POLISH... CAN I BORROW SOME OF YOURS?
HA, HA.
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CALENDAR

From Page 7

★ Sacramento Women's Rugby Team plays San Francisco. Miller Park, Broadway & Front St., Sacramento.

★ Our River City Family Potluck. General meeting, election of officers. For information, call Paul at 371-2946. 7 p.m.

Sunday, February 5

★ Worship Service. 'Young people's rap & social hour afterwards. River City Metropolitan Community Church, 2741 34th St. 454-4762. 11 a.m.

★ Chrysalis Neighborhood Church worship service. 3700 Y Street. 6 p.m. 736-0113 or 453-0791 for information.

★ Transition (Gay Latter-Day Saints) Speaker/Discussion. Call 965-5084 or write 3030-B Q Street, Suite 215, Sacramento 95816. 6-9 p.m.

Monday, February 6

★ Films for Black History Week. *Black History: Lost, Stolen or Strayed*, 9 a.m. *To Be Young, Gifted, and Black*, 10 a.m. *Amazing Grace*, noon. *I Have a Dream*, 2 p.m. *Hajj Malik El-Shabazz—Malcolm X*, 3 p.m. Redwood Room, University Union, CSUS.

★ GNIE Bingo. Mercantile Saloon. 8 p.m.

Tuesday, February 7

★ Guest Speaker for Black History Week. Mel Assagai, aide to Sen. David Roberti, speaks on "How Will Advance Technology Affect Blacks in the Future?" Redwood Room, University Union, CSUS. Noon.

★ Capital City Squares. Coloma Community Center, 46th & T St. Call 488-2440 (days) or 486-0150 (eves). 7 p.m.

★ Raza del Ambiente, gay lesbian Hispanic organization, meets. New members welcome. 7:30 p.m. Call Chica at 444-6371 for more info.

★ Videotape on "Understanding and Relating to Our Gay Children." Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays. Carmichael Presbyterian Church, 5645 Marconi. Room 255. 7:30 p.m.

★ GNIE. Incredible Edible. 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 8

★ The STAR is published.

★ Guest Speaker for Black History Week. Dorothy Parrish, City of Berkeley Personnel Director, speaks on "Racism in the Educational System." Redwood Room, University Union, CSUS. 3 p.m.

★ NOW Lesbian Rights Task Force. Call Marcy, 921-2835 for info. 7 p.m.

★ Sacramento Men's Collective facilitated workshop. La Semilla. 7:30 p.m. Call 441-1959 for information.